COUNTY EXECUTIVE FINLEY REACTS TO BUDGET REFORM ACT

Waukesha – Waukesha County Executive Daniel M. Finley called Governor Scott McCallum's Budget Reform Act of 2002 a reasonable first step on a long journey to get the state's fiscal house in order.

"We all know that the condition of the State budget has steadily worsened for several years," said Finley. "As I said when I wrote to the Governor last week, I stand ready to work with him in a fashion that is a win-win for the taxpayers of Waukesha County and the State of Wisconsin. While some modifications need to be made to the proposal, Governor McCallum's Budget Reform Act is a reasonable starting point to address our immediate and long term fiscal needs."

Finley reiterated that any freeze or reduction in shared revenue must be accompanied by a repeal of unfunded state mandates to local units of government. Also, Finley called for a moratorium on any future unfunded state mandates.

"Unfunded mandates from the state to local government must be repealed as part of the package," said Finley. "In addition, the state cannot on one hand freeze property tax levies and reduce shared revenue and on the other continue to pass unfunded state

mandatestolocalunitsofgovernment.Thefinalbudgetreformpackagemustincludea

moratoriumonunfundedstatemandates."

Alongwithaddressingthebudgetdeficit,Finleywasencouragedwitht   he
inclusionoftheKettlCommissionrecommendationsintheproposal.Finleyhaslong
arguedthatacompleteexaminationofthestate/localgovernmentpartnershipistheonly
waytogetourfiscalhousesinorder.AlongwiththecreationofanotherBlue   Ribbon
Commission,financialincentivestomunicipalitiesshouldbeincludedtoencourage
mergersandconsolidatingservicedelivery.

"Thefoundationofreformforthestate/localpartnershipwaslaidbytheKettl
Commission,"saidFinley."Theonlyw   aywewilltrulyaddressthefinancialmessfor
thelongtermistocompletelyrestructurethestate/localpartnershipfromfundingto
providingservices.IaskthatGovernorMcCallumgoevenfurtherbyproviding
incentivestolocalgovernmenttoimplemen   ttheCommissions'recommendations."

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